

Los Angeles County Department of
Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures

:: NEWS BULLETIN ::

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CROP VALUES UP AGAIN !!**

Cato R. Fiksdal, Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures, announces that the 2002 Los Angeles County Crop and Livestock Report is now available. This Report highlights another overall growth year for our County.

The total gross value of agricultural crops and products produced in Los Angeles County increased 6.7% in 2002 to a value of **\$275,969,000**. Rebounding from last year, vegetable crop acreage increased overall by 28.3% and commodities such as root vegetables, table greens, vine crops and herbs increased in value between 37% and 54%. Production yields of dry onions were slightly lower than the previous year; however, higher market prices caused total value to increase by 9.6%.

Los Angeles County's number one crop, ornamental nursery products, experienced a modest increase of 3% over last year. Although limited, greenhouse space and field acreage for indoor foliage plants increased by 44%, and value by 178%. Growing areas and total value declined for ground cover while production of bedding plants increased only to see a reduction in value.

However, even with an overall increase for the year, it was still a tough year for many of the County's growers. Market prices for peaches were higher but production and acreage dropped to half of the previous year's amount. Total fruit and nut crop acreage declined by 28%, and value by 21%.

This year we salute the certified farmers and the 80 Certified Farmers' Markets in Los Angeles, where our residents can purchase hundreds of varieties of locally and California-grown produce directly from the growers.

A copy of this year's Crop Report is available for downloading on our web site (<http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>), or by calling (626) 575-5472.

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